

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 THROUGH 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act. All women and families should be free from fears of violence, but immigrant women face particular problems in confronting this crisis. That is why I am so pleased that provisions of my bill, H.R. 3188, the Immigrant Victims of Violence Protection Act, are included in this legislation.

These immigrant provisions reflect hard bipartisan work of many members of Congress. I especially thank Representatives JOHN CONYERS, Jr. and SHEILA JACKSON-LEE for their leadership on this issue. While VAWA 1994 and 2000 made significant progress in reducing violence against immigrant women, there are still many women and children whose lives are in danger today. Many VAWA-eligible victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse or trafficking are still being deported.

Congress must remain vigilant in the fight to preserve basic due process rights—the right for immigrants to have a hearing before being deported and the right for battered immigrants to seek protection under VAWA. I want to highlight three concerns that this bill addresses: stopping the practice of immigration agents arresting and deporting battered immigration victims who may be eligible for VAWA relief; allowing the VAWA unit within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to use its expertise and specialized training to grant, deny and revoke deferred action; and encouraging DHS to use its existing parole authority to allow approved VAWA self-petitioners who are abroad to enter the U.S. and receive VAWA relief.

A battered immigrant woman was arrested at the steps of a courthouse and detained by immigration enforcement officers. She was on the way to a custody hearing, and the officers had acted upon a tip by her abuser who wanted her deported. She was in fact an approved VAWA self-petitioner and should have been neither detained nor deported. I am very concerned about this and other reported cases where immigrant victims are arrested by immigration enforcement officers at a domestic violence shelter or at a protection order courtroom. This undermines the purpose of VAWA, which is to protect battered immigrant victims.

Section 825(c) of this bill establishes a system to verify that removal proceedings are not based on information provided by the abuser.

When any part of an enforcement action was taken at certain places, DHS must disclose these facts and certify that such an enforcement action was not based on the information provided by the abuser. The list of locations includes: a domestic violence shelter, a rape crisis center, and a courthouse if the alien is appearing in connection with a protection order or child custody case. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) must stop relying on information provided by an abuser to track down, arrest and deport an immigrant victim or to deny an immigration case she has filed because of the information provided by her abuser. This would protect battered victims from unjust immigration enforcement actions and allow them to protect their children and themselves from further abuse.

Currently, a specially-trained VAWA unit exists within DHS that adjudicates all VAWA immigration cases nationally. Because ICE officers often do not have the expertise and training in domestic violence that this VAWA unit does, the VAWA unit is best equipped to assure consistency of VAWA adjudications, effectively identify eligible cases and deny fraudulent cases. This unit should have exclusive jurisdiction to grant, deny and revoke deferred action. Maintaining a specially-trained unit with consistent and stable staffing and management is also critically important to the effective adjudication of VAWA cases.

Since VAWA 2000, DHS has been using its parole power under INA Section 212(d) to foster reunification of approved VAWA cancellation of removal applicants with their children who would be otherwise stranded abroad with no protection from retaliation from the victim's abusive spouse. For example, a daughter was raped by her father; who was a U.S. military officer stationed in Germany. He was prosecuted in a military tribunal for his crime, and she was approved for VAWA protections, but she did not have a way to enter the United States. In this case, DHS was able to use its parole power to allow her to leave her abusive father in Germany and find a safe home in the United States. Too often, victims have the ability to apply for VAWA immigration protection from abroad, but once their case has been approved are not consistently able to enter the United States where they can receive protection from ongoing abuse. I strongly encourage the Department of Homeland Security to use its authority to grant parole to bring into the U.S. approved VAWA petitioners and their children, thereby offering them protection until they can file for adjustment of status to lawful permanent residency under VAWA.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the life-saving provisions in VAWA Reauthorization to help protect this vulnerable population. This is an opportunity to eliminate some of the major obstacles immigrant crime survivors

face in achieving safety and legal immigration status.

TERRORIST REWARDS
ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Mr. Kirk's "Terrorist Rewards Enhancement Act of 2005," H.R. 2329, which would permit those eligible in certain circumstances such as an officer or employee of a foreign government to receive a cash reward under the Department of State Rewards program. The value of this rewards program in dealing with terrorists is beyond dispute.

I have introduced a bill that would use a virtually identical rewards program for dealing with commercial alien smuggling operations, the "Commercial Alien Smuggling Elimination Act of 2005," the CASE Act, H.R. 255. It would provide for cash rewards to facilitate the investigation and prosecution, or disruption, of reckless commercial alien smuggling operations.

This is not a controversial idea. The Rewards for Justice Program that was established by the 1984 Act to Combat International Terrorism, Public Law 98-533, has been very successful. The Rewards for Justice Program is administered by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security. It authorizes the Secretary of State to offer rewards for information that prevents or favorably resolves acts of international terrorism against U.S. persons or property worldwide. Rewards also may be paid for information leading to the arrest or conviction of terrorists attempting, committing, conspiring to commit, or aiding and abetting in the commission of such acts. The USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 authorizes the Secretary to offer or pay rewards of greater than \$5 million if he determines that a greater amount is necessary to combat terrorism or to defend the United States against terrorist acts.

A well known success of this program occurred a few years ago when a \$30 million reward was given for critical information that led to the location of Uday and Qusay Hussein. Rewards under the CASE Act, however, would be limited to \$100,000, except as personally authorized by the Secretary of the Homeland Security Department.

I urge you to expand the use of this effective tool to include cash rewards to facilitate the investigation and prosecution, or disruption, of reckless commercial alien smuggling operations.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

DOMESTIC NATURAL GAS SUPPLY
ACT OF 2005**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Domestic Natural Gas Supply Act of 2005". The purpose of this legislation is to provide adequate funding for the Ultra-deep-water and Unconventional Gas and Other Petroleum Research and Development Program that was established in the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

The rapid escalation of natural gas prices in recent months since the passage of EP Act of 2005 is the most tangible evidence that a natural gas supply problem of truly crisis proportions is looming in this country.

The Congress took a major, first step when it enacted this R&D program and the President signed it into law in August. However, the agreement in the conference report cut the funding to the point that the program is barely viable.

This bill restores funding to the level contained in the House-passed version of EP Act of 2005. By enacting this bill into law we will ensure that the program will go forward with the funding necessary to develop and deploy the technologies to produce the tremendous volumes of natural gas that lie underneath the Gulf of Mexico and the onshore areas of the continental United States.

I want to reiterate that this funding does not come from General Revenue. It comes from royalties collected from existing oil and natural gas production. In effect, what we are doing is reinvesting proceeds from the government's assets to produce more oil and gas. The royalties generated by this new production will far exceed the investment in this program, according to the University of Texas' Bureau of Economic Geology.

I am pleased to introduce this legislation today, not only because it is good energy policy and good business, but because it will go far towards reducing the dramatic decline in domestic natural gas production that so threatens the economic health and energy security of this country.

SCIENTISTS WHO WILL RECEIVE
STEM CELL RESEARCH GRANTS**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I came to the House floor to announce that New Jersey had just become the first state in the nation to distribute public funds for human embryonic stem cell research.

I wanted to include in the RECORD a list of the scientists who will receive these stem cell research grants. All grants are approximately \$300,000. The scientists, work at a number of different institutions around New Jersey: Rutgers University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, The Coriell Institute for Medical Research, Princeton University, UMDNJ-RWJMS, Amorce, Inc.

The New Jersey Commission on Science and Technology voted in a public meeting to—

award Stem Cell Research Grants to the following:

T. Arinze, Nanofiber Scaffold for Stem Cell Based Cartilage Repair, To test whether stem cells can be used to repair cartilage defects with the potential for providing new tissue engineering therapies that could help cancer patients who have had tumors removed from bones, osteoporosis and other cartilage and tendon damage.

R. Cohen, Training in Human Embryonic Stem Cell Biology, To provide basic and advanced training in the field of human embryonic stem cell biology and to develop a well-trained pool of scientists in New Jersey proficient in hESC culture techniques with the goal of advancing New Jersey's leadership in stem cell research.

R. Hart, Regulation of microRNA Gene Expression in Differentiating Neural Stem Cells, To understand and control differentiation of neural stem cells with the potential to produce specific cell types for therapeutic transplant in brain trauma, stroke, spinal cord injury, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease.

H. Houbaviy, MicroRNAs MiR-290-295 in Blastocyst-Derived Stem Cells and the Early Mouse Embryo, To understand stem cell development and lineage determination with the goal of expanding and improving knowledge of areas of stem cell biology currently not well understood.

I. Lemischka, Genome-Wide Functional Analysis of ES Cell fate Regulation, To understand human embryonic stem cell decisions such as survival/death, renewal/determination and to understand how to maintain or induce specific cell fate with the goal of applying this knowledge to patient therapies.

R. McKinnon, Gliogenic Potential of Human Placental Stem Cells, to identify mechanisms of glial cell generation from human placental cells with the goal of identifying a potential alternative to embryonic stem cells for clinical trials. In collaboration with Celgene, a New Jersey-based biotech firm ranked sixth largest internationally.

K. Moore, Interactive Mechanisms of Stem Cells and Microenvironments, to further understand the mechanisms of stem cell self-renewal and commitment toward the purpose of developing new therapies or advancing existing therapies for use in drug development and for gene and cell therapy for immunological and other diseases.

R. Nowakowski, Molecular Circuitry of "Stemness" in the Developing CNS, to learn how to reprogram or teach transplanted cells how to generate the right type and number of necessary cells for cell-replacement therapies with the potential for replacing specific brain areas damaged by disease or injury.

R. Preti, Bone Marrow Derived CD34 Cells for Treatment of Acute Myocardial Infarction, to produce a cell therapy product using bone marrow-derived cells for treatment of coronary damage following a heart attack and advance the company's federal Food and Drug Administration-approved clinical trials with the potential for new and more effective therapy for cardiac patients.

L. Qin, PTH-Mediated AGFR Signaling in Stromal Stem Cell Growth and Multidifferentiation, to conduct fundamental research using bone marrow stem cells with the potential to develop more effective treatments for low bone mass and similar disorders.

M. Roth, Selective Gene Delivery to Human Hematopoietic Stem Cells, to apply novel genetic screening approaches to stem cells with the potential of enhancing the ability to use stem cells and gene therapy in many clinical settings, including treating hematopoietic disorders and cancer.

J. Sadoshima, Mechanisms of Mesenchymal Stem Cell Differentiation, to increase the efficiency of stem cell differentiation into cardiac myocytes by manipulating a particular signaling mechanism with the potential for developing an effective method to repair damaged heart tissues.

B. Saitta, Role of Extracellular Matrix in Cord Blood Stem Cell Response to Cardiac Injury, to use stem cells derived from umbilical cord blood to study the molecular mechanisms of stem cells in repairing damaged areas of the heart with the potential to heal damaged tissue and preserve or regain function, offering an alternative to transplants which are possible but limited by the number of donors.

M. Shen, Role of the Nodal signaling pathway in regulation of embryonic pluripotency, to enhance fundamental understanding of basic molecular functions in mice and human stem cells with the potential for improving manipulation of ES cells in culture for use in stem cell-based therapies including possible insights into the genesis and dysregulation of cancer stem cells.

T. Shenk, Isolation and Characterization of Life-Extended Human Cord Blood Cells, to produce populations of stem cells from human cord blood that can be used to study the molecular characteristics of such cells including how to modulate these growth responses in vivo and in culture with the potential to improve the clinical uses of stem cells.

Y. Shi, Immunobiology of Mesenchymal Stem Cells, to investigate the mechanisms underlying stem cell mediated immune tolerance and its use in treatment of autoimmune disorders with the potential to lead to new treatment for many human diseases in which the immune system attacks the body, including MS and asthma.

J. Tischfield, Genetic and Structural Analysis of Mouse ES Cells and their Derivatives, to study cultured ESC and confirm, monitor and regulate phenomena that would be deleterious to tissues derived from stem cells with the potential to prevent problems that could slow development of stem cell therapies.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE
HOUSE THAT SYMBOLS AND
TRADITIONS OF CHRISTMAS
SHOULD BE PROTECTED

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, forgive me if I haven't noticed that Christmas is under attack. Being Jewish, maybe I am simply incapable of judging. Silly me, I thought there were about the same number of Christmas trees, both in private homes and public places—that is, everywhere. Seems like Christmas music is still ubiquitous in elevators, grocery stores, the mall and while on hold on the telephone. No? Having just returned from Eastern Market, I still have the sounds of real live carolers in my ears, and, as a former community choir member, I knew all the words and sang along. (Is it anti-Christmas for a Jew to do that? I should check with Bill O'Reilly.)

Santa was there as usual at Congressman BARTON's and DINGELL's reception for the Energy and Commerce Committee, and adorable little children of Christian conservatives as well as moderates, and yes, even Democrats, were

sitting on his lap. I thought I observed the same mix of awe, fear and delight as in years past, but Jewish eyes can deceive, I guess.

I could be wrong, but I think it would be pretty hard not to guess that it is the "Christmas season" or that "Christmas" is coming if you turned on just about any channel, cable or broadcast, at just about any time of the day or night. Sometimes those reminders also include a request for you to call in and give your credit card number, and do it now, because there are only a few more days until "Christmas."

I'm pretty cheerful about responding to "Merry Christmas" with a "Same to you." I can't recall ever scolding anyone in public or in private for missing the fact that I don't celebrate Christmas. I do try not to say it myself at my synagogue, unless I know for sure the person is Christian, and then I try especially hard to say it.

I'm fond of candy canes. They seem to be available for free in many places at this time of year—"Christmas" time. I try never to pass one up. I even try to like fruit cake, understanding it is one of the typical "Christmas" treats, but I think it may be like gefilte fish—an acquired taste.

If there are some Christians who think that Christmas has become too commercial—the symbol of Christmas being more the Visa or Mastercard than the nativity scene—then I think they deserve to have a serious discussion about that. That discussion, in my Jewish view, would be best held in church, or at home, or just about any place other than the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

PASSPORT SERVICES
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Passport Services Enhancement Act of 2005, H.R. 4501. This bill would amend the Passport Act of June 4, 1920, to authorize the Secretary of State to establish and collect a surcharge to cover the costs of meeting the increased demand for passports as a result of actions taken to comply with section 7209(b) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. I am pleased that we will be funding this security measure required by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act. I look forward to a time when all of the security measures in that Act have been funded.

The failure to fully fund the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act is an indication that Congress has not allotted enough resources to deal with the requirements for security in the fight against terrorism. Another example is the failure to enact my Rapid Response Border Protection Act of 2005, H.R. 4044, which would provide critical resources and support for the men and women who secure our borders, which is essential to our defense against terrorism.

The resources and support in my bill would include the addition of 15,000 Border Patrol agents over the next five years, which would increase the number of agents from 11,000 to 26,000. With more than 8,000 miles of land

and coastal borders to patrol continuously, it is evident that this increase is desperately needed if any semblance of control is to be achieved. The Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would be required to respond rapidly to border crises by deploying up to 1,000 additional Border Patrol agents to a State in which a border security emergency has been declared by the Governor. It also would include 100,000 more detention beds to ensure that those who are apprehended entering the United States unlawfully are sent home instead of being released into our communities. It would assist in cracking down on the problem of fraudulent documents used to enter unlawfully and remain in the United States by adding specialized enforcement agents and establishing cooperative mechanisms with State and local law enforcement agencies. And it includes provisions for critical equipment and infrastructure improvements, such as additional helicopters, power boats, police-type vehicles, portable computers, reliable radio communications, handheld GPS devices, body armor, and night-vision equipment.

Those who object to the cost of such security measures need to recall the enormous costs, not just in monetary terms, of the last terrorist attacks. As Benjamin Franklin wisely noted nearly 270 years ago, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." The total cost of my border security bill would only be a very small fraction of the amount being spent fighting terrorism overseas. If we want to prevent another terrorist attack on American soil, we must be prepared to devote whatever resources are necessary to keeping terrorists out of our country. This legislation is designed to help provide more resources for the now required greater utilization of the U.S. passport because of the 9/11 tragedy. Americans will need more passports and the State Department will need more staff. The same can be said for our border security taking short cuts and scrimping on homeland security as this only serves as an open invitation to future disastrous attacks.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

HON. RALPH M. HALL
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House and to acknowledge the innovative work of the National Center for Sustainable Development (NCSD) a national 501 c 3 nonprofit corporation headquartered here in Washington, DC and doing good work in my home state of Texas through its Dallas and Austin offices to restore urban and suburban contaminated real estate to new productive use. The Center is now undertaking potentially significant initiatives involving both energy production and air quality in local communities in the recycling of waste products to biodiesel. As Texas is the historic home of innovation and creativity in the use of natural and man made resources, my purpose is to encourage the pilot initiative being undertaken by the Center in the city of Texarkana focusing on the recycling of commercial and industrial food

waste products currently a significant threat to the proper maintenance and efficiency of municipal waste water treatment facilities.

The initiative which I seek recognition for will produce biodiesel from a waste stream currently which is a constraint on the development of services and small business serving the community of Texarkana and placing a burden on the infrastructure that assures proper and environmentally appropriate disposal of grease and waste oils. The undertaking of such a pilot program in Texarkana, Texas is not by chance. The operations of the pilot will be located in an industrial park next to the Red River Army Depot, the main focus of which is the refurbishment and maintenance of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and the Humvees currently supporting our mission in Iraq. A portion of the biodiesel rendered from this initiative will be made available to RRAD for their use in testing its properties for both quality as a fuel and its properties as a cleaner burning replacement for conventional petroleum based diesel fuel.

As Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality I recognize that many are pursuing the goals of increased efficiency and air quality that biodiesel holds for helping to satisfy the domestic need for diesel fuel, now in short supply, and that many methods are being evaluated, but my hope is that NCSD can help create and encourage energy production from existing resources now perceived as obstacles to sustainable growth in my district and elsewhere.

By the House and Committee's acknowledgement of the initiative of the National Center for Sustainable Development I am asking for their report on the progress of the Texarkana facility at the milestone of their first six full months of operations. The subcommittee will be interested in the results of this initiative for both its applications for energy production and for improved air quality. I will close by reiterating my support for this worthy initiative and to follow their progress as an example for use by the subcommittee in its critical work.

EXPLANATION OF MISSED VOTES

HON. JOE BARTON
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, December 15, 2005, I was admitted to the hospital upon suffering a heart attack. As a result, I missed three days of votes. I ask that my statement be placed in the appropriate part of the record to reflect how I would have voted on the following rollcall votes, had I been present.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2005:

Nay: On agreeing to the Jackson-Lee (TX) amendment Failed by recorded vote: 162–252 (roll No. 639). An amendment numbered 8 printed in Part B of House Report 109–347 to provide guidelines for implementing the secured alternatives to detention provision in section 402(a).

Aye: On agreeing to the Hunter amendment Agreed to by recorded vote: 260–159 (roll No. 640). An amendment numbered 11 printed in Part B of House Report 109–347 to mandate

the construction of specific security fencing, including lights and cameras, along the Southwest border for the purposes of gaining operational control of the border. Fencing has been designated in sectors that have the highest number of immigrant deaths, instances of drug smuggling and illegal border crossings. The amendment includes a requirement for the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a study on the use of physical barriers along the Northern border.

Aye: On motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 405—15 (roll No. 641).

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2005:

Aye: On motion to close portions of the conference. Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: 409—12 (roll No. 642). National Defense Authorization Act, FY 06.

Nay: On motion that the House instruct conferees Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: 228—187 (roll No. 643). National Defense Authorization Act, FY 06.

Aye: On ordering the previous question Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: 221—200 (roll No. 644). Providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 612) expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to achieving victory in Iraq.

Aye: On agreeing to the resolution Agreed to by recorded vote: 217—202 (roll No. 645). Providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 612) expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to achieving victory in Iraq (roll No. 645).

Aye: On agreeing to the resolution Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: 216—203 (roll No. 646). Providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes.

Aye: On motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 413—1 (roll No. 647). Calling on the international community to condemn the Laogai, the system of forced labor prison camps in the People's Republic of China, as a tool for suppression maintained by the Chinese Government.

Aye: On agreeing to the resolution Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: 279—109, 34 Present (roll No. 648). Expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to achieving victory in Iraq.

Aye: On motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 421—1 (roll No. 649). Condemning the Government of Zimbabwe's "Operation Murambatsvina" under which homes, businesses, religious structures, and other buildings and facilities were demolished in an effort characterized by the Government of Zimbabwe as an operation to "restore order" to the country.

Aye: On motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 397—17, 7 Present (roll No. 650). Providing that Hamas and other terrorist organizations should not participate in elections held by the Palestinian Authority, and for other purposes.

Aye: On motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 408—1 (roll No. 651). Recognizing the importance and credibility of an independent Iraqi judiciary in the formation of a new and democratic Iraq.

Nay: On motion that the House instruct conferees Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: 246—175 (roll No. 652). Budget Reconciliation, 2006. The instructions contained in the motion seek to require the managers on the part of the House to recede to the Senate by eliminating House provisions reducing eligibility for food stamps; reducing funding for child support enforcement; repealing the Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset; modifying the Mining Law of 1972; eliminating the sections of the House amendment that reduce Medicaid benefits and allow increases in beneficiary costs; reducing to the maximum extent possible increases in interest rates and fees paid by student and parent borrowers on student loans; adopting the Senate provision eliminating the stabilization fund that makes payments to Medicare Advantage Regional Plans; adopting the Senate provision on Medicare Advantage risk adjustment; and adopting the Senate provision on Medicare physician payments.

Aye: On agreeing to the Goodlatte amendment Agreed to by recorded vote: 273—148 (roll No. 653). An amendment numbered 1 printed in House Report 109—350 to eliminate the visa lottery program.

Aye: On agreeing to the Stearns amendment Agreed to by recorded vote: 420—0 (roll No. 654). An amendment numbered 6 printed in House Report 109—350 to prohibit Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Attorney General, and all courts from granting any kind of legal immigration status (i.e. "benefits") to an alien until the relevant databases of criminal records and terrorist watch lists are checked.

Aye: On agreeing to the Sensenbrenner amendment Failed by recorded vote: 164—257 (roll No. 655). An amendment numbered 7 printed in House Report 109—350 to reduce the maximum sentence for illegal entry and illegal presence to six months.

Aye: On agreeing to the Norwood amendment Agreed to by recorded vote: 237—180 (roll No. 656). Clarifies federal law by explicitly stating that states and their political subdivisions have the inherent authority of a sovereign entity to investigate, identify, apprehend, arrest, detain, or transfer to federal custody aliens in the U.S. while enforcing immigration laws in the course of carrying out the routine duties;

Aye: On agreeing to the Westmoreland amendment Agreed to by recorded vote: 247—170, 1 Present (roll No. 657). An amendment numbered 15 printed in House Report 109—350 to set caps on the monetary penalties set forth in Title VII of the bill for hiring or employing unauthorized aliens of \$7,500 for first time offenses, \$15,000 for second offenses, and \$40,000 for all subsequent offenses; Provides an exemption from penalty for initial good faith violations; and provides a safe harbor for contractors if their subcontractor employees an unauthorized alien (provided the contractor did not know the employee was an unauthorized alien).

Nay: On agreeing to the Gonzalez amendment Failed by recorded vote: 87—332 (roll No. 658). An amendment numbered 16 printed in House Report 109—350 to increase the fines on businesses for knowingly hiring unauthorized aliens to \$50,000. Proceeds would be shared with state and local government and are restricted for use to help cover the costs associated with providing services to undocumented immigrants.

Aye: On agreeing to the Sullivan amendment Failed by recorded vote: 163—251, 1 Present (roll No. 659). An amendment numbered 18 printed in House Report 109—350 to require all non-citizens who enter or exit the country to be processed through the automated entry-exit control system Congress mandated in 1996.

Nay: On motion to recommit with instructions Failed by recorded vote: 198—221 (roll No. 660). The instructions contained in the motion seek to require the bill to be reported back with an amendment which inserts a complete new text entitled "Border Security and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2005".

Aye: On passage Passed by recorded vote: 239—182 (roll No. 661). Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act.

Aye: On motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 404—5, 1 Present (roll No. 662). Condemning actions by the Government of Syria that have hindered the investigation of the assassination of former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafik Hariri conducted by the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIIC), expressing support for extending the UNIIC's investigative mandate, etc.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2005:

Aye: On agreeing to the resolution Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: 213—190 (roll No. 663). Providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules.

Aye: On motion that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 413—0 (roll No. 664). Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 487, which would establish January 13 of each year as Korean American Day to celebrate the anniversary of the arrival of the first Korean-American immigrants to the United States (January 13, 1903). The Korean American community has added so much to the vibrant culture of Chicago and our country. Illinois has the 4th largest Korean population in the United States, and Chicago alone has close to 12,000 Korean residents.

Korean-Americans have taken root and thrived in the United States through strong family ties and community support. Through hard work, Koreans have invigorated businesses, churches, and academic communities in the United States.

My constituents like Mr. Jin Lee, have made tremendous contributions to my city of Chicago. At the age of fourteen, Mr. Lee arrived in this country and has since been actively serving the Korean-American community. He

co-founded the Keumkil Cultural Society, which promotes Korean American culture. He was Executive Director of the Chicago Korean American Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Village of Skokie's Immigrant Advisory Task Force and a committee member of the Skokie Festival of Cultures. He works hard on behalf of the community and has been recognized and honored by the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Republic of Korea and Mayor Richard M. Daley's office. He also served as goodwill ambassador for "Visit Korea 2001" and served as Vice President of the Korean American Association of Chicago. He recognizes the importance of promoting cultural diversity and supporting the immigrant community.

As a first generation American and as a Congresswoman who is honored to represent one of the most richly diverse districts in the country, I have a deep appreciation for the invaluable contributions Korean-Americans have made to the United States. Korean-Americans, like Mr. Lee, contribute so much to and are an inspiration to others seeking to share in the American dream. This resolution provides much needed and deserved recognition to the Korean-American community for the invaluable mark they have had on the diversity and prominence of our great nation.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL VICTOR SAMUEL UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional officer in the United States Army, Lieutenant Colonel Victor H. Samuel, upon his retirement after 20 years of distinguished service. Throughout his career, Colonel Samuel has personified the Army values of duty, integrity, and selfless service across the many missions the Army provides in defense of our Nation. As a Congressional Legislative Liaison Officer in the office of the Secretary of the Army, many of us on Capitol Hill have enjoyed the opportunity to work with Colonel Samuel on a wide variety of Army issues and programs, and it is my privilege to recognize his many accomplishments.

Lieutenant Colonel Victor H. Samuel, the son of Mr. Hasker B. and Sylvia P. Samuel of Silver Spring, Maryland attended Eleanor Roosevelt Senior High School in Greenbelt, Maryland and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, after graduating from Hampton Institute in 1984. Colonel Samuel's first assignment was in Bad Hersfeld, Germany as an Engineer Platoon leader. He was subsequently assigned duties as the Executive Officer and Assistant G3 in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment that was charged with defense of the Fulda Gap in Europe during the Cold War. Colonel Samuel went on to Command an Engineer Company in the 31st Engineer Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. In 1992, Colonel Samuel was selected to complete advance studies in Civil Engineering at the University of Maryland where he received a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering (Construction Management).

In 1994, Lieutenant Colonel Samuel served as the Project Engineer for the Vicksburg, Mississippi District. He was subsequently assigned to the XVIII Airborne Corps, Airborne Combat Engineer Brigade, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he served as the Brigade Logistics Officer and Battalion Executive Officer. Thereafter, Colonel Samuel was assigned to the Army Staff in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, where he honed his expertise in the field of personnel management.

In 2002, Lieutenant Colonel Samuel was assigned to the Office of Chief of Legislative Liaison, Programs Division where he assumed duties as a Legislative Liaison managing the Personnel and Human Resources portfolio. Colonel Samuel served as the Policy Branch Chief for Programs Division where he oversaw the promulgation of legislative policy initiatives in operations and logistics, depot maintenance, personnel, education and training, medical, and military construction.

Through these varying assignments, Lieutenant Colonel Samuel has provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on numerous critical issues of enduring importance to both the Army and Congress. His actions and counsel were invaluable to Army leaders as they considered the impact of important issues. On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank Colonel Samuel, his wife, Janice, and his entire family for the commitment, sacrifices, and contribution that they have made throughout his honorable military career. Congratulations on completing an exceptional and successful career.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of myself, Congresswoman JO ANN DAVIS and Congresswoman THELMA DRAKE to call attention to a group of young students from Hampton, Virginia, who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Hampton High School Crabbers football team had a remarkable season, and we believe the Crabbers deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments. On December 10, 2005, the Hampton High School Crabbers won their 17th state football championship, defeating Stone Bridge High School of Ashburn 15-8, at Todd Stadium in Newport News, Virginia.

The Crabbers finished the season with a 12-1 record. Hampton High holds a Virginia record of 17 state football championships. This is also the 12th state championship for Hampton High Head Football Coach Mike Smith.

This latest championship is just another accolade for the City of Hampton's oldest school. Hampton High School is also the direct descendant of the Syms-Eaton School, the first free school established in the American colonies. Syms Free School was founded in 1647. The school has existed in many incarnations and buildings since then, with Hampton's current school building being constructed in 1956.

The legacy of Hampton High is not limited to just the field of athletics. Under the Direction of Principal Anthony Woods, the Hampton faculty seeks to inspire students to strive for excellence and achievement in the classroom, in their extracurricular activities and in their communities. Hampton High has the second highest percentage of accredited teachers in the state of Virginia. Hampton High received the Award of Academic Excellence from the Department of Education in 1985. Hampton students meet rigorous academic requirements, and they take responsibility for their own academic progress, behavior and attendance. It is clear that this drive for excellence in academics goes hand in hand with excellence in athletics.

The Crabber's excellence in football is characteristic of the quality of athletics in the Peninsula District of Virginia. Hampton High School's championship this year marked the 10th time in the last fifteen years that a Peninsula District team has won a state title in football. To quote from our hometown newspaper, the Daily Press, "High school football on the Peninsula is championship football."

We would like to extend our enthusiastic congratulations to Coach Mike Smith, his coaching staff and all of the players on the Hampton High School Crabbers, the 2005 Group AAA Division Virginia High School League state football champions.

RECOGNITION OF MR. CHARLES "CHUCK" KLYBER

HON. RAY LAHOOD

ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a few words today in recognition of Mr. Charles "Chuck" Klyber, a sportsman with a high degree of cooperative spirit and exceptional athletic ability. At 68 years old, Charles competes in the Illinois Senior Olympics games alongside men and women senior athletes in many different events.

The Illinois Senior Olympic Games bring together regional athletes 50 years of age and older. The games consist of 26 different sporting events in which participants compete in traditional Olympic-style events, such as track-and-field, basketball, and cycling.

Charles celebrated a spectacular 2005 season, setting several records, and winning a combined total of 23 medals. Mr. Klyber reached Gold status in the 10K run and 5000 and 1500-meter running events. Charles also earned Silver medals in the 200, 400, 800, 1500-meter runs, discus, shot put, and javelin. Performances in the 1500-meter, Football Accuracy, discus, and shot put also earned Charles Bronze medals throughout this season. Following outstanding performances, he has been nominated for the 2005 Illinois Senior Olympic Games Athlete of the Year.

Charles has admirably demonstrated exceptional athletic ability bringing great honor and pride to the State of Illinois, the senior community, and the Illinois Senior Olympics Games of Springfield, Illinois. Continuing his lifelong athletic participation, Charles has set his sights on the 2007 National Senior Olympic Games in Lexington, Kentucky, in which he will run his last race.

I commend Charles for his admirable triumphs thus far and wish him success as he continues to complete in the future. He is an inspiration to all of us—and to quote him, “Who said getting older can’t be a blast?”

RECOGNIZING CENTENNIAL OF
SUSTAINED IMMIGRATION FROM
PHILIPPINES TO UNITED STATES
AND ACKNOWLEDGING CON-
TRIBUTIONS OF FILIPINO-AMER-
ICAN COMMUNITY

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 218, a resolution to recognize 2006 as the centennial of sustained immigration from the Philippines to the United States and to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Filipino Americans over the past century.

Immigration from the Philippines to the United States began in 1906 when the first significant numbers of Filipino immigrants arrived in Hawaii to work on the island's sugar plantations. Today, a century later, the Filipino-American community's numbers increase by nearly 60,000 new immigrants per year, making Filipinos the largest immigrant group from the Asia-Pacific region.

The Filipino-American community has added so much to the vibrant culture of Chicago and our country. The 9th Congressional District boasts about 17,000 Filipino residents, which makes it home to the 36th largest number of Filipino-Americans among Congressional districts.

I am particularly proud of the achievements by my constituents like Ms. Aurora Abella-Austriaco, a lawyer, who immigrated here from the Philippines. She was just appointed a member of the Committee on Character and Fitness, First District, by the State of Illinois Supreme Court on October 26, 2005. In addition to being partner of a Chicago law firm, she served as a member of the Filipino American Voters League from 1996–98. She is the current Chair of the Cook County States Attorney's Asian Advisory Council and member of the Attorney General's Asian Advisory Council and Clerk of the Circuit Court's Asian Advisory Council. She is the past Treasurer of the League of Women Voters of Chicago and past Chair of the Chicago Bar Association. She also is Vice President of the Asian American Institute's 2005 Board of Directors.

The history of America's Filipino-American community is the quintessential American immigrant story of early struggle, pain and sacrifice, leading to success in overcoming ethnic, social, economic, political, and legal barriers to win a well-deserved place in our national fabric. Filipino-Americans, like Ms. Abella-Austriaco, have made incredible contributions in all parts of our society, including business, labor, politics, medicine, media and the arts. Filipino-Americans have served and are serving with special distinction in our Armed Forces, from World Wars I and II through the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and today in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Smithsonian Institution will be conducting the Filipino-American Centennial Com-

memoration 2006 with five public programs and at least six more in cities including the city of Chicago, which I represent. The programs will range from scholarly discussions and film showings to cultural performances providing historical overviews of Filipino-Americans in the United States.

This centennial celebration will provide every American an opportunity to celebrate a century of Filipino immigration to the United States.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN TUCKER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the National Park Service's (NPS) great treasures, John Tucker. A 35-year employee with NPS John is retiring January 3, 2006 after serving as Superintendent of the Fort Sumter National Monument for more than 15 years. I commend Mr. Tucker for his years of exemplary service and dedication to preserving and protecting our nation's treasures.

I came to know Mr. Tucker after being elected to Congress in 1992. Because of my love of history and preservation, he and I immediately found common ground. We have partnered on a number of initiatives during my tenure in Congress with the crowning achievement being the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center. This magnificent \$15 million structure educates visitors about the causes of the Civil War, and it doesn't flinch from the issue of slavery. Mr. Tucker's vision and its implementation at this site are visually stunning and historically significant.

The Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center complex is also a great example of Mr. Tucker's innovative partnership with the City of Charleston. The City built the South Carolina Aquarium adjacent to the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center, and the NPS and the City jointly created Liberty Square, a wonderful park setting that accommodates public events and provides a respite for weary visitors to the Center complex. Mr. Tucker's creativity and willingness to bring a variety of entities to the table have resulted in a destination that visitors to the Charleston area do not want to miss.

Mr. Tucker's career with the NPS began the day after his college graduation on June 1, 1970. His first assignment was at Cades Cove in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park. The following January, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves and received his training at Parris Island. However, by July 1971, Mr. Tucker was back on the job with the NPS.

He received additional training by the NPS to become a ranger, and these skills served Mr. Tucker well as he traversed the United States serving at various parks: The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Cades Cove sub-district: National Capital Park-East, Washington, D.C.; Ocmulgee National Monument, Macon, Georgia; and Cabrillo National Monument, San Diego, CA. From October 1977 until November 1980, Mr. Tucker served as the Chief Ranger at Fort Sumter National Monument, where he eventually became Superintendent.

Mr. Tucker's first Superintendent assignment, however, was at the Andersonville National Historic Site from 1980 to August 1989. His work there included building relationships with the American ex-prisoners of war and restoring historic prison camps. He also had the privilege of serving as Superintendent of the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site when it was established in 1988. That same year he was granted NPS's Superior Service Award.

Still the Fort Sumter National Monument beckoned him to return, and in August 1989, Mr. Tucker made his final transfer to become Superintendent of this collection of Charleston's historical treasures. His arrival in Charleston was marked 6 weeks later by the arrival of Hurricane Hugo, another force that left its imprint on this historic city. It took him the next 2 years to repair the damage to the NPS site wrought by the hurricane's fury.

In 1990, Charles Pinckney National Historic Site became part of the NPS inventory and was put under the auspices of Mr. Tucker at Fort Sumter. He has had responsibility in Charleston for 42 historic structures, ten monuments and memorials, 182 acres comprised of cultural sites, a curatorial collection of over 250,000 objects, five historic archaeological sites, and 45 cannon tubes of which 25 are carriage-mounted. His outstanding contributions were recognized by the NPS in 2002 when Mr. Tucker received the Superintendent of the Year award.

I know firsthand of the extraordinary work John Tucker has done for the National Park Service on behalf of the American people. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Tucker on his tremendous career and his dedication to the preservation of our nation's historic and natural treasures. I know that his leadership at the NPS will be sorely missed, and I hope that he will continue to be involved with many projects in the Charleston area some of which both he and I share a deep and abiding passion. I wish him good luck and Godspeed.

TRIBUTE TO MATT POMMER

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the work of a remarkable journalist—Matt Pommer of Madison, Wisconsin.

Matt Pommer is retiring from The Capital Times newspaper where he worked for nearly 45 years. The past 35 of those years were spent covering the State Capitol beat. During that time, he covered virtually all of the major stories in the state, including the work of seven Governors.

Matt Pommer is a true journalist, who stayed focused on the facts and worked to make certain that he got the details right. He has an extraordinary knowledge of the inner workings and history of Capitol activity which was reflected in the outstanding quality of his stories. On many issues, most notably the Wisconsin retirement system, he knew as much or more than the legislators working on the issue.

In his years covering legislation Matt was steadfast in his determination to keep the public informed of the on-goings in Wisconsin.

government. He devoted his energies to bringing the story to his readers without any fear or favor. He had no interest in "spin".

Mr. Speaker, over the years I have had the privilege of reading Matt Pommer's work, and interacting with him during my service as a state legislator. He is a professional in every sense of the word.

On a lighter note, Matt and I enjoyed the opportunity to work together as "extras" in the film "Chain Reaction" with Keanu Reeves and Morgan Freeman. We were told that Director Andrew Davis preferred to fill the role of "extras" with people who actually worked in the job they were portraying. When he looked for a real journalist, there is little wonder that he found Matt Pommer.

Thank you Matt, for the years of service you have provided to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin and the readers of The Capital Times.

HONORING THE SACRIFICES OF MILITARY FAMILIES

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in the coming weeks, American families will come together to celebrate the holidays and the start of a new year. Together, they will reflect on the events of 2005, and prepare for the challenges of the year ahead.

Sadly, for many families, this season will be a difficult one, and I rise today to pay tribute to those American families whose lives have been personally impacted by ongoing military operations around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my deepest gratitude to the families of the men and women who are currently serving our nation overseas. I add my prayers for their safety and well being. And, I extend my humblest sympathies to the families of those brave soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country.

In particular, I would like to take this opportunity to honor four American heroes and their families who reside in the Thirteenth Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

Major Jeffrey Toczykowski, age 30, was killed during combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, on November 3, 2005. He was a dedicated soldier who had asked loved ones to remember that, if he was killed in action, that he died doing something he believed in and that he had no regrets. My thoughts and prayers are with his family in Ambler, Jenkintown, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Sergeant Francis Straub, Jr., age 24, and Specialist John Kulick, age 35, were killed when a mine detonated and their unit received small arms fire while investigating a rocket-propelled grenade incident in Bayji, Iraq on August 9, 2005. Both of these men answered the call to serve—Sergeant Straub had dreams of becoming a Philadelphia Police Officer and Specialist Kulick was the most senior member of the Whitpain Fire Department. My thoughts and prayers are with their families, who live in Philadelphia, Jenkintown, and Dillsburg, Pennsylvania.

Specialist Kurt Krout, age 43, was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle in Anaconda, Iraq on August 6, 2005. He was a committed soldier who joined the Marines at age 17. He

had reenlisted as a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard in 1995, and volunteered for deployment to Iraq in June 2004. My thoughts and prayers are with his family in Lansdale and Spinnerstown, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, during this holiday season, I know the dedication of these soldiers will be remembered by their family, friends, loved ones, and the nation. And, I ask my colleagues, and all Americans, to join me in honoring their service and sacrifice for our nation.

VICTORY IN IRAQ RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 612 and to congratulate parliamentary election.

The citizens of Iraq who desire peace and a prosperous future have demonstrated their commitment to those goals by participating in three national Iraqi elections. Reports indicate that Iraqis turned out in unprecedented numbers to vote in yesterday's election. I congratulate them for braving the instability and violence on the streets of Iraq in order to cast their votes.

Today, instead of offering a resolution to express our congratulations and hopes for a democratic Iraq, the Republican leadership has chosen to play politics, offering a divisive resolution. H. Res. 612 does nothing more than reiterate President Bush's failed strategy for Iraq. While all of us support democracy in Iraq, the Republican leadership has rolled over democratic procedures on the House floor, denying Democrats an opportunity to amend this resolution.

In addition, rather than laying out an exit strategy, as was done by Congressman JACK MURTHA almost one month ago, the Republican leadership continues to ignore the growing chaos and violence facing our soldiers. The Majority refuses to even debate this critical issue. Staying the course is a recipe for disaster that endangers our troops and the Iraqi people.

The withdrawal of American troops should begin now. The new Iraqi government has been formed, and it must take responsibility for forging its own path toward stability and democracy. In polls, the Iraqi people have been clear: they do not believe coalition troops are providing stability and security, and they believe it is time for our troops to come home. The U.S. should provide diplomatic and financial support to an international effort to help the Iraqi government provide security and consolidate democracy.

I have been contacted by many of my constituents who understand that H. Res. 612 is nothing more than a political stunt. The Republican Congress is no longer fooling the American people. In overwhelming numbers, they think it was a mistake to go to war in Iraq; they think the Bush Administration mishandled the war; and they don't support this war. Our troops remain far from home, endangered by a growing insurgency. Now that Iraq has a democratically-elected government, it is time for our troops to come home in order to spend the holidays with the ones they love.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mrs. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, because of a family matter, I missed several recent votes. I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted on those votes. Rollcall No. 639—Yea; Rollcall No. 640—Yea; Rollcall No. 641—Yea; Rollcall No. 642—Yea; Rollcall No. 643—Yea; Rollcall No. 644—Nay; Rollcall No. 645—No; Rollcall No. 646—Nay; Rollcall No. 647—Yea; Rollcall No. 648—Yea; Rollcall No. 649—Yea; Rollcall No. 650—Yea; Rollcall No. 651—Yea; Rollcall No. 652—Yea; Rollcall No. 653—No; Rollcall No. 654—Yea; Rollcall No. 655—Yes; Rollcall No. 656—No; Rollcall No. 657—No; Rollcall No. 658—No; Rollcall No. 659—No; Rollcall No. 660—Yes; Rollcall No. 661—No; Rollcall No. 662—Yea; Rollcall No. 663—Yea; Rollcall No. 664—Yea.

VICTORY IN IRAQ RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I must oppose H. Res. 612 because of my great respect and admiration for our men and women serving in Iraq. Resolution 612 endorses an open-ended commitment of U.S. troops in Iraq and embodies President Bush's latest attempt to justify the U.S. involvement in Iraq. The President and his Congressional allies claim that the Iraqi parliamentary elections were a "crucial victory" in establishing a democracy in Iraq. Thus, through this election, is "victory" in Iraq inevitable?

America has heard this type of reasoning before from President Johnson during the Vietnam War. In 1967, as the South Vietnamese freely elected their government, President Johnson then declared the Vietnamese election had established a democracy supported by the Vietnamese people. After this Vietnamese election, 38,000 more Americans died in Southeast Asia. Since May 1, 2003 when President Bush declared our "Mission Accomplished" in Iraq, approximately 2000 more U.S. troops have died in Iraq.

Under this resolution, the call to bring our troops home hinges on a "victory". What is the victory that the President and his Congressional supporters envision for the U.S. in Iraq? This is not a war like our grandparents fought. There is no country to hoist the white flag of surrender. There is no recognized political entity which the U.S. can sign a peace agreement with. Our brave military men and women are trying to build a democracy in a country that views our U.S. troops as occupiers and almost one half of the Iraqi people believe it is justifiable to kill U.S. troops! The U.S. military has been used to prop up a government being threatened by a guerrilla insurgency. With this Iraqi insurgency, I cannot envision an event, a goal or a date where the resolution's "victory" in Iraq can indisputably be achieved.

Every Member of the United States House of Representatives would have supported this

resolution if it did not contain paragraph six. Paragraph six of this resolution is a political attack to embarrass Congressman John Murtha who has called for a strategic redeployment of our troops from Iraq.

The Democratic House leadership offered an identical resolution without paragraph six but the Republican majority party rejected it. While the United States is attempting to establish a democracy in Iraq, but the majority party in the United States House of Representatives uses its power to stifle, embarrass, and silence voices of dissent to the War in Iraq.

The Republicans have no interest in presenting a unified show of support for our troops and in congratulating the Iraqis on their parliamentary elections. The Republicans are more interested in using our troops in Iraq and their families as a political issue than expressing the U.S. House of Representatives' sincere admiration and gratitude.

In closing, I would like to provide my statement on yesterday's parliamentary elections in Iraq:

I applaud the government of Iraq for this milestone election today. The people of Iraq are able to participate in a democracy by electing the leaders who will help shape their young government and institute laws to protect them. This is a giant step toward full accountability.

Election day in Iraq serves as much more than an opportunity to cast a vote to elect leaders; it serves as an opportunity for the people of Iraq to accept responsibility for governing Iraq. This responsibility extends beyond voting. Yesterday's vote marks the time for Iraqis to be accountable for themselves and their developing country.

The hopes and dreams of the Iraqi people will not be realized if the insurgency continues to disrupt Iraq's national unity. The overwhelming majority of the Iraqis are in tacit support of this insurgency as they view our U.S. troops as "occupiers" of their country. Nearly one half of the Iraqi citizens believe it is justifiable to kill U.S. troops. Since May of 2004, when President Bush declared "Mission Accomplished" in Iraq, approximately 2,000 more U.S. troops have died and more than \$150 billion in tax dollars have been spent to counter act this Iraqi insurgency.

I believe that in order for the principles of democracy to take hold in Iraq, the target of the insurgency, our U.S. troops, must be removed.

I believe the President must develop a plan to bring our troops home. I believe America should demand from the Bush Administration an Iraqi Accountability Plan that will set clear and measurable goals to entrust the country of Iraq to her people. The United States has provided the Iraqis with an opportunity for freedom, democracy and self-governance but, only the Iraqi people can set forth these principles in their land. Iraq's parliamentary election, which marks the birth of a promising democracy and the implementation of an Iraqi Accountability Plan, will enable its people to embrace and nurture its own government.

May God bless our troops and this great country.

THE ARMY'S FREEDOM TEAM SALUTE PROGRAM RECOGNIZES THE VALUE OF SERVICE TO NATION

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, for 230 years, soldier citizens of the United States Army have answered the call to duty as guardians and defenders of America's Freedoms. Millions of these United States Army veterans selflessly served this nation. Their legacy of duty lives and grows ever more glorious in their continuing support of the United States Army mission and their service to country.

The United States Army recognizes and appreciates the sacrifices these courageous men and women have made in answering their nation's call to duty by choosing a life of service and fidelity to the values of their service. The people of the United States of America also recognize that they have incurred a great debt of gratitude to their soldier citizens, and to their spouses and families who support them as they serve us in the defense of freedom. America owes thanks to the employers who support the soldier citizens among their workforce, and to the veterans who stand by those who now wear the uniform.

General Peter J. Schoomaker, the Army's Chief of Staff, has said, "Soldiers and their families demonstrate the value of teamwork at home and in the field, ensuring that our Army is truly an Army of One."

The United States Army has created a program called Freedom Team Salute to recognize the essential contribution of these supportive spouses, families, employers, and veterans. Any soldier may nominate a spouse, family member, or employer for Freedom Team Salute recognition. This recognition includes a special Army lapel pin and decal, and a letter and certificate from the Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Army. Veterans of Army service may also register for Freedom Team Salute recognition at the program's website: www.freedomteamsalute.army.mil.

I commend General Schoomaker and Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey for their leadership of our Army and for the Freedom Team Salute program. I ask all Americans to continue their support of our men and women in uniform as they defend freedom, and I commend to them the use of this excellent program as means of expressing their own gratitude.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on December 13th, I was serving on a jury in Colorado and so was not able to be present for several votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 623, H. Res. 487—Supporting the goals and ideals of Korean American Day—"yes." Rollcall No. 624, S. 1047—Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2005—"yes." Roll-

call No. 625, H.R. 3422—Small Public Housing Authority Act—"yes."

THOMASVILLE TOPS IN SOCCER, TOO

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Thomasville High School, located in the Sixth District of North Carolina, is known as a football powerhouse in our state. The Bulldogs have captured two straight high school football championships and six overall. In fact, the school is renowned for its entire athletic program. Last year, the school won three state titles, two for men's and women's basketball and one for the football team. Now it can add another state championship trophy in its overflowing display case—the men's soccer team won the school's first-ever title in that sport. On November 19, 2005, the Bulldogs soccer team defeated Manteo 4-3 in sudden-death overtime at the SAS Soccer complex in Cary, North Carolina.

"It's just an unbelievable feeling," third-year head coach Robert Yates told The Thomasville Times. "Just to make the playoffs, and then to get to the state championship game, and then to win it like that in sudden-death overtime, it's hard to describe." The player who was a team leader all year—Walter Cruz—came through again in the sudden-death overtime period to score the game-winning goal. Cruz, who earned the Most Valuable Player award for the game, told The Thomasville Times, "I can't explain the things that I feel. We made history in Thomasville High School soccer."

Joining Cruz in the history-making march to the title were teammates Rogaciano Augilar, Danny Alvarado, Adam Beasley, Eder Calva, Miguel Chavez, Adrian Hidalgo, Ji Soo Noh, Joel Ramirez, Roman Ramos, Jose Rios, Edberg Rodriguez, Yefrey Salazar, Victor Sanchez, Daniel Sandoval, Eloi Solis, Joel Torres, Zach Upton, Lazaro Vazquez, Marco Villa, and Rich Weaver.

Congratulations to head coach Yates, his assistant coach Martin Stanich and community volunteer George Solis, athletic director Woody Huneycutt, principal Dirk Gurley, the faculty, staff, students, parents, and fans of Thomasville High School on the first-ever soccer championship in school history. Thomasville has proved that in addition to football and basketball, the Bulldogs are tops in soccer, too.

BORDER PROTECTION, ANTITERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend

the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes:

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I am deeply concerned about a bill of this type "The Border Security Act of 2005" coming to the floor of this chamber.

This bill does not adequately achieve our common goals of a comprehensive immigration policy that protects our borders while humanely seeking to address the many workers who are already in this country.

We realize that 9/11 taught us that our nation must address our national security along our borders from the north, south, east and west. Unfortunately, this bill is not the way to go in addressing this very important issue.

Statistics have shown that barrier fences have never worked to deter migration. The fences proposed in this legislation would be disastrous to the environment. It would destroy half of our national park land and many endangered species would be at risk if a massive fence was built in this territory.

This is why I have joined with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, American Nursery & Landscape Association, and Americans for Tax Reform, Associated Builders and Contractors, National Restaurant Association, National Retail Federation, Small Business & Entrepreneurs Council, Society of American Florists and the American Bar Association in opposing this bill.

For centuries, America has prided herself on welcoming those who felt that our country could give them a better way of life. The statue of Liberty in the Harbor of New York was that symbol of hope. Where is the promise and hope in this legislation?

Furthermore, this bill does nothing to address judicial review. As it now stands, the current detention practices are extremely expensive. The overall cost for detention is over \$1 billion a 2 year. On average over 22,000 detainees are in custody each day. Detaining members of vulnerable populations who are likely to appear for hearings and are not a threat to society is a misguided use of taxpayer's dollars. Using detention as the only way to ensure compliance is a costly practice. A formal hearing would expedite the process and save time and money.

Finally, if this bill is enacted provisions of this legislation would deny citizenship to babies who are born in this country by parents who are not citizens and would become law. These are not the principles of America.

As a Nation we need to address serious comprehensive immigration issues. As a Congress, we need to get to work and complete a bill that reflects the needs and concerns of the entire country.

I would be happy to vote for an immigration bill that actually protects the interests of the American public, small businesses and makes our Nation secure. H.R. 4377 is not that bill.

I urge a no vote on the Border Security Act of 2005.

TRIBUTE TO CBO DIRECTOR, DR.
DOUGLAS J. HOLTZ-EAKIN

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who many in this body have had

the distinct pleasure of working with during the past several years, and someone who has left a tremendous mark on the Congressional Budget Office. The distinguished Director of the CBO, Dr. Douglas J. Holtz-Eakin, will be leaving his position at the end of this month to take on the challenges and opportunities of his new job with the Council on Foreign Relations.

Back in 2003, I had the honor of interviewing candidates and making my recommendation on who should be the next director to lead the CBO. And while I'd interviewed several superbly qualified candidates for the position, after meeting with Dr. Holtz-Eakin, the choice was clear.

First, Doug possessed a wealth of economic and public sector experience, having served as the Chief Economist for the President's Council of Economic Advisers, a position to which he was appointed by President Bush in June 2001.

Second, based on his reputation as a man of unquestioned integrity, combined with his history of providing consistent, strong leadership, I felt confident he would effectively serve the whole of Congress in an independent, non-partisan fashion.

Last, but certainly not least, Doug is well known for his gregarious personality, and great sense of humor. And for anyone familiar with the always challenging and often thankless tasks regularly asked of CBO, these attributes are a tremendous asset to its leader.

And Doug's work these past few years has shown that my confidence in his abilities was more than justified.

During his tenure as CBO's director, he has effectively utilized the tremendous energy and talent of his staff. He has led CBO to make great strides in analyzing the impact of revenue measures on the economy. And because of his clear vision of how Congress and CBO could better work together, CBO's responsiveness and performance have improved significantly under his leadership.

I have been extremely impressed and very proud of Doug's leadership and accomplishments, and would today like to publicly thank him on behalf of this Congress.

Doug, we wish you continued success in the next chapter of your distinguished career.

STATEMENT ON FEMA'S BROKEN PROMISES

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 100 days since Hurricane Katrina devastated the gulf coast region, destroying more than 300,000 homes, taking more than 1,300 lives. FEMA promised help, yet, more than 100 days later, thousands of survivors are still living in tents and shelters. More than 100 days later, promised trailers have not arrived. More than 100 days later, a Federal judge has had to force FEMA to extend its deadline.

FEMA is now opting out of 12-month leases. What FEMA won't do, Congress can do. It is time for this Republican Congress to work with Democrats and enact legislation granting 1 year of housing assistance. It is imperative that this be done before we adjourn. Human

suffering continues. I am willing to work with those who want to end this suffering.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO THE 2005 ELECTIONS IN EGYPT

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, as we consider the issue of democratic reform in Egypt, I think it is vitally important to assess progress in the context of the multifaceted cultural and philosophical challenges facing Egyptian society.

None of us would deny the benefits of freedom and democracy or choose another path to justice for our nation. Egypt has also taken its first steps on the path to democracy in a region where this concept of governance is virtually unknown and untested, despite many internal and external obstacles.

While this resolution draws attention to very legitimate and serious concerns that I share, I am concerned that as re-written, it amounts to a harsh censure that will accomplish little short of alienating the Egyptian government at a particularly volatile time in the history of the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, would it have been better if Egypt's elections had not been held at all?

Looking at recent history, Egypt has borne significant sacrifices for the cause of peace and freedom in the Middle East. Formerly an ally of the Soviet Union, Egypt moved to establish diplomatic relations with Israel in 1978 after 30 years of hostilities. President Sadat paid a high price for Egypt's rapprochement with Israel. More recently, Ambassador Ihab al-Sherif paid with his life for daring to defy the foes of democracy in Iraq.

When I visited Sinai as an 18-year-old, I was struck by the graffiti scrawled on a twisted heap of concrete with the message: "Here was the war—Here is the peace." For close to 30 years now, Egypt has stood by a courageous choice for peace. While no government is perfect, this choice has been consistent with a move toward democratic reform, however flawed, and however tenuous.

Egypt's first contested presidential elections this September and the parliamentary elections held in December represent a significant achievement. Nevertheless, the unpleasant realities of high unemployment, threats of terrorism, internal political and religious strife, along with the vicious persecution of minority faith communities remain pressing concerns. While the state of democracy in Egypt is neither ideal nor established, we dismiss Egypt's concerns about the "slippery slope to theocracy" at our peril.

During Secretary Rice's visit to American University in Cairo this summer, she recalled the words of President Bush's Second Inaugural Address: "Our goal is to help others find their own voice, to attain their own freedom, and to make their own way." Secretary Rice went on to say that "we know these advances will not come easily, or all at once."

I appreciate and share the heartfelt concern of my colleagues who are seeking to usher Egypt along the path toward a vibrant and

thriving democracy. However, I believe that we need to express this concern in a manner that acknowledges the accomplishments of the past, appreciates the challenges of the present, and carefully considers the options available to realize our hopes for the future.

EXPLANATION OF THE DEPOSIT INSURANCE REFORM LEGISLATION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, today, we have a great opportunity to make significant improvements in our Federal Deposit Insurance system. Our position is strong, as both the insurance fund and the banking industry are extremely healthy, making this the ideal time to fine tune the system and establish a strong footing going forward.

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF REFORM: FAIRNESS AND FLEXIBILITY

The two fundamental driving principles of reform are to provide fairness to all insured depository institutions by assessing each based on risk, and to promote greater flexibility by allowing the FDIC to manage the fund differently based on existing economic conditions.

The bill provides greater fairness to insured banks in many important ways. It authorizes the FDIC to revise its risk-based formula to reflect with greater accuracy the risk each institution poses to the insurance fund. In providing this authority, our Committee looked at examples provided by the FDIC to determine how the new system might work, including FDIC representations that show about 42 percent of all banks would likely remain in the lowest risk category. Because the very nature of bank loans involves risk, we expect the FDIC to form a reasonable system that encourages appropriate risk-taking, consistent with safe and sound banking, and with premiums at a level that protect the best run banks from being overcharged but don't inadvertently stop lending. In this bill, we make explicit that the size of the financial institution should not bar an institution from being in the lowest risk category. It is risk that matters, not size. We expect the FDIC to conduct assessments in such a timely manner that banks are able to plan for such an expense, thereby avoiding unexpected or untimely costs.

Secondly, the bill recognizes that about 10 percent of institutions have never paid a premium to the FDIC to support its operations. This has put a burden on those institutions that fully capitalized the insurance funds in the mid-1990s. This legislation provides that those institutions that capitalized the fund with initial credits in proportion to each institution's financial contribution to FDIC. The credits are intended to offset premium assessments for many years to come. Those institutions that have not financially supported the FDIC would not have these credits and therefore must begin to pay premiums to the FDIC. Moreover, should the insurance fund grow to the upper regions of the normal operating range for the FDIC, banks would be entitled to a cash dividend in proportion to their historic financial contributions.

In addition to promoting fairness, the bill provides the FDIC greater flexibility to manage

the insurance fund. The current law constrains the FDIC from charging most banks when the reserve ratio remained above a certain level and forces the FDIC to charge high premiums (23 basis points) at times when it makes the least sense. Our bill corrects these problems by allowing the FDIC to manage the fund within a wide range, with the intention that assessments would remain reasonably constant and predictable.

Importantly, this bill is not intended to raise more money than what the FDIC would have collected under the old law. Nor is this bill intended to encourage the FDIC to build the fund to the highest possible level. In fact, we know that each dollar sent to the FDIC means that there are fewer dollars that can support lending in our communities. As we considered this bill, we heard testimony that suggested that each dollar sent to Washington means that eight dollars of lending is lost. We cannot afford to restrict lending in our communities just to have more money added to the nearly \$50 billion already in the insurance fund.

To protect against the fund growing too quickly, the legislation provides an automatic braking system that would return as a dividend 50 percent of any excess when the reserve ratio of the fund is above 1.35 percent. It also caps the fund level, providing a 100 percent dividend when the reserve ratio exceeds the upper limit of the range at 1.50 percent. This assures that money will remain in our communities. And while we provided the FDIC some authority to suspend the 50 percent dividend under extraordinary circumstances where it expects losses over a one-year timeframe to be significant, our expectation is that this authority will be used rarely and reviewed carefully each year when the new designated reserve ratio is set. This exception should be temporary and not a regular event, and the FDIC must communicate to Congress and the industry its justifications.

The FDIC's development and implementation of a new risk-based assessment system should not negatively impact the cost of homeownership or community credit by charging higher premiums to prudently managed and sufficiently capitalized institutions simply because they fund mortgages and other types of lending through advances from Federal Home Loan Banks. The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act took great care in trying to provide adequate funding resources for community financial institutions and insured housing lenders through expanding community institutions' access to Federal Home Loan Bank advances. The FDIC shall take into consideration the goals of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act with respect to Federal Home Loan Bank advances and the objectives of this Act when developing a risk-based premium system.

DESIGNED FOR THE FUTURE

Not only does the legislation provide fairness and flexibility, it also anticipates needed changes in the coverage levels over time. We know that inflation has cut in half the real value of the current insurance coverage since it was last changed in 1980. We also know that, as the baby boomers move into retirement, the current coverage level was inadequate to protect their life-long savings. Thus, this bill increased to \$250,000 the insurance limit on retirement accounts.

The House has repeatedly voted overwhelmingly in favor of legislation that would automatically index coverage levels based on

inflation. The other body has only recently passed deposit insurance reform. The indexing language included in the Senate reconciliation bill required the FDIC to "determine whether" to increase coverage based on the amount of inflation increase plus a long list of factors. Our compromise language calls on the FDIC and NCUA to consider just three narrow factors. Those factors are: (1) the overall state of the Deposit Insurance Fund and economic conditions affecting insured depository institutions; (2) potential problems affecting insured depository institutions; and (3) whether the increase will cause the reserve ratio of the fund to fall below 1.15 percent of estimated insured deposits. If the FDIC and NCUA elect not to increase coverage, they must make their case based on these three narrow factors. The key language in the compromise is that the FDIC and NCUA, "upon determining that an inflation adjustment is appropriate, shall jointly prescribe the amount by which" coverage "shall be increased by calculating" the amount of inflation. This change in language, from "determine whether" to "shall jointly prescribe" is a clear statement that Congress is establishing a presumption that the agencies will increase coverage if warranted by past inflation.

STRONGER THAN EVER

This legislation will make the insurance fund even stronger than it already is and, in combination with the extensive regulatory and supervisory authorities of the FDIC, ensures that the fund and the banking industry will remain strong for a very long time.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDER- STANDING SIGNED BY THE GOV- ERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA AND THE FREE ACEH MOVEMENT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 456, "expressing support for the memorandum of understanding signed by the government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement on August 15, 2005, to end the conflict in Aceh, a province in Sumatra, Indonesia." Let us begin by first thanking Congressman CROWLEY for his tireless work and steadfast leadership on this issue.

For over thirty years there has been armed conflict in the Indonesian province of Aceh between the Indonesian military and the Free Aceh Movement. The Free Aceh Movement had demanded independence while the Indonesian government has fought to maintain their control over the region. The fighting in the region has not only devastated the landscape, but has led to an estimated 15,000 deaths in the region.

Last December's tragic tsunami killed at least 165,000 people in Aceh. If something good can be taken from the horrible disaster, it is that the tsunami's destruction led the Indonesian government and the Free Aceh Movement to set aside their three decades of fighting to enable the rebuilding of Aceh.

With the help of former President Martti Ahtisaari of Finland, the parties agreed in July

to a draft memorandum of understanding to end the conflict. The memorandum of understanding not only provided a timetable for disarmament and troop withdrawal, but also granted the people of Aceh with new political powers and the right to retain much of the revenues of resources extracted from the province. The Indonesian President has also granted amnesty to hundreds of Free Aceh Movement members, and the Free Aceh movement has agreed to forgo its demand for independence.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues can understand and respect just how difficult it can often be to reach compromises in highly charged political situations. It is precisely because of this fact that we as a Congress should wholeheartedly congratulate the Indonesian government and the Free Aceh Movement for their willingness to compromise. Their ability to compromise has made both parties better off, and perhaps can serve as an example to all of us. I sincerely hope the memorandum of understanding the parties reached will stand the test of time and be the first step toward extended peace for the Aceh region.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I believe this country can most show its support of this peace process not only with kind and supportive words, but with kind and supporting actions. I encourage the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to commit resources in guaranteeing the peace and building a strong civil society in Aceh.

TRIBUTE TO THE COUNTRY OF POLAND

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the country of Poland and its citizens for their successful Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

On October 23rd, a Conservative Law and Justice candidate Lech Kaczynski defeated Civic Platform candidate Donald Tusk in the Presidential Election runoff. A month earlier, in the Parliamentary elections, the Law and Justice Party won a plurality by capturing 27 percent of the vote while the Civic Platform party garnered the 2nd highest amount at 24 percent.

In addition to the remarkable political reform that has swept Poland over the last 15 years, there has been considerable economic progress as well. The Polish GDP continues to grow and because of its skilled workforce and a competitive free market economy, it has received significant foreign investment.

Poland has been a strong ally to the United States in our war on terror and has provided considerable aid to the military and diplomatic efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that when President-Elect Kaczynski is sworn in on December 23rd, U.S.-Polish relations will continue to grow and prosper under his leadership.

PROVIDING THAT HAMAS AND OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZA- TIONS SHOULD NOT PARTICI- PATE IN ELECTIONS HELD BY PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of today's common-sense resolution condemning the participation of terrorist organizations in the Palestinian elections. It is disappointing that Congress even needs to make this statement, yet time and time again, history has proven it is necessary.

The Middle East peace process requires that the Palestinian Authority recognize the right of Israel to exist and that it reject the terrorism and violence that have plagued the region since the 1940s. It stands to reason that this requirement can only be met if the very organizations which threaten peace in the Middle East, such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, are removed from the official political process.

As it is, these organizations currently operate with little interference or admonition from the Palestinian Authority. Were they to become a part of the governing authority, the integrity of the Palestinian government would be compromised. Clearly, the Authority cannot condemn the anti-Israel and anti-American bias of the same groups of which it is comprised.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to reaffirm their support for our strong ally, Israel, and to support this resolution.

PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORIZATION OF DOMESTIC NSA SPYING

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the recent reports, and admission by President Bush, that he authorized the National Security Agency to spy domestically, and did so without obtaining warrants. Some have noted that it is highly unusual for a President to publicly acknowledge the existence of highly classified intelligence programs. Some believe this is commendable. But Mr. Speaker, his admission was after the fact. After hundreds, possibly thousands, of Americans have had their telephone calls and e-mails monitored with little to no oversight. After he authorized the NSA, an organization tasked with investigating foreign people and entities, to spy on American citizens and other residents living in this country. And after, Mr. Speaker, he urged the New York Times not to report the existence of this program in the first place. Hardly commendable.

Yet these facts alone, though enough to warrant grave concern, are not the end of the story. Further compounding the issue is that the President did this without even seeking warrants, or legal oversight. I wish I could say I was surprised at this, but I cannot. This Administration has pushed the envelope for

power and authority at every opportunity and this is clearly no exception. If truly and absolutely necessary, they could have at the very least obtained warrants from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. As the New York Times stated today in an editorial, "The law governing the National Security Agency was written after the Vietnam War because the government had made lists of people it considered national security threats and spied on them. All the same empty points about effective intelligence gathering were offered then, just as they are now, and the Congress, the courts and the American people rejected them." In authorizing this program, this Administration has chosen to ignore precedent, wisdom, and possibly even the Constitution.

The Fourth Amendment clearly states "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized." I strongly believe that spying on American citizens without first obtaining warrants, or any legal oversight, clearly violates this bedrock principle of our government and our Nation as a whole. I also believe that this program—its inception, its uses, its results, its justification for existence—needs to be thoroughly investigated. I have begun circulating a letter asking the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to conduct investigations of this. I hope my letter will not be ignored.

Mr. Speaker, no doubt the Administration and its supporters will attempt to paint those questioning the wisdom of this program's existence as weakening our defenses, and undermining our Nation's security and counterterrorism efforts. This is a weak and pathetic justification. There is no question the President must have the best possible intelligence to protect our Nation and its citizens. There is no question the President must conduct programs that are hidden from the public eye in order to gather this intelligence. The question is whether or not these ends can be achieved in accordance with our Constitution, our laws, and in a manner that reflects our values as a Nation.

I hope for the sake of the country, that after the Congress investigates this program, it is not shown that the President broke the law. However, we will only know the answer to that question after Congress exercises its proper oversight responsibility. Something it has failed to do for five years. Despite what this Administration would have us believe, securing our Nation from all enemies both foreign and domestic can be achieved without violations of our civil liberties.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to issues I had to attend to at home, I was unable to be here for the majority of this legislative week and was unable to vote on important legislation on the floor of the

House. Had I been here and able to vote, I would have cast the following votes:

Rollcall vote No. 623—Yes, rollcall vote No. 624—No, rollcall vote No. 625—Yes, rollcall vote No. 626—No, rollcall vote No. 627—Yes, rollcall vote No. 628—Yes, rollcall vote No. 629—Yes, rollcall vote No. 630—Yes, rollcall vote No. 631—Yes, rollcall vote No. 632—Yes, rollcall vote No. 633—Yes, rollcall vote No. 634—No, rollcall vote No. 635—Yes, rollcall vote No. 636—Yes, rollcall vote No. 637—Yes, rollcall vote No. 638—Yes, rollcall vote No. 639—No, rollcall vote No. 640—No, rollcall vote No. 641—Yes, rollcall vote No. 642—Yes, rollcall vote No. 643—No, rollcall vote No. 644—Yes, rollcall vote No. 645—Yes, rollcall vote No. 646—Yes, rollcall vote No. 647—Yes, rollcall vote No. 648—Yes, rollcall vote No. 649—Yes, rollcall vote No. 650—Yes, rollcall vote No. 651—Yes, rollcall vote No. 652—No, rollcall vote No. 653—No, rollcall vote No. 654—Yes, rollcall vote No. 655—Yes, rollcall vote No. 656—No, rollcall vote No. 657—Yes, rollcall vote No. 658—No, rollcall vote No. 659—No, rollcall vote No. 660—No, rollcall vote No. 661—No.

DESIGNATING CERTAIN BUILDINGS OF CENTERS FOR DISEASE CON- TROL AND PREVENTION

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4500, a bill to designate the Headquarters and Emergency Operations Center building of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, as the "Rosa Parks Headquarters and Emergency Operations Center Building". The bill also honors Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, also known as Mother Teresa of Calcutta, by designating the CDC's Global Communications Center building as the "Mother Teresa Global Communications Center Building".

Mother Teresa devoted her life to helping the poor and sick throughout the world. Her compassion and humanity, in the face of abject poverty, war, and starvation serves as a reminder to us all that when our hearts are focused on helping those who can not help themselves, our potential for greatness is unlimited. Although, at first sight, she appeared to have been a tiny woman, Mother Teresa was strong enough to carry the weight of the world's suffering on her narrow shoulders and to bring love and dignity to those facing the greatest challenges that life can offer.

Mother Teresa was born in Skopje in modern day Macedonia on August 27, 1910. She recalled being pulled to the work of God at the age of 12 and, by age 18, she left her family to join the Sisters of Loreto, an Irish community of nuns with missions in India. After teaching at St. Mary's High School in Calcutta for 17 years she found that she could no longer simply hear the stories of dismal poverty and despair that existed outside the convent walls. In 1948, Mother Teresa left the convent school to devote her time to working among the poorest of the poor in the slums of Calcutta. There she opened a school for poor children though she had no money herself.

On October 7, 1950, Mother Teresa received permission to start her own order, "The Missionaries of Charity". Since its inception in 1950, the Missionaries of Charity has spread to all corners of the world, tending to the most desperately needy in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. They also assist in relief work in the wake of natural disasters such as floods, epidemics, famine, and earthquakes, and care for the homeless and those suffering with the AIDS virus.

Mother Teresa's work was not limited to the developing world. In the United States, the Missionaries of Charity have established many soup kitchens, emergency shelters for women, shelters for unwed mothers, homes for the dying, prison ministries, service to hospitals, and nursing homes.

In 1985, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom; in 1997, she was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. In 1996, Congress passed and the President signed Public Law 104-218, proclaiming Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu—Mother Teresa—to be an honorary citizen of the United States of America. At the time she was only the fifth person to ever receive this honor.

Mother Teresa died on September 5, 1997, in Calcutta. She continued to work with the poor right up until her death.

Mr. Speaker, the bill also designates the headquarters of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as the "Rosa Parks Headquarters and Emergency Operations Center Building".

As I noted during debate on H.R. 2967, which designates a Federal building in Detroit, Michigan, in honor of Rosa Parks, she is known as the "mother of the civil rights movement." With one single act of defiance—when she refused to give up her seat on the Cleveland Avenue bus in Montgomery, Alabama—she galvanized a Nation and changed the course of history. On December 1, 1955, Mrs. Parks was sitting in the middle rows of the bus with three other black riders. The bus driver demanded that all four give up their seats so that one white man could sit. Three of the riders complied. Mrs. Parks remained seated.

As Mrs. Parks herself has said in the years following that pivotal moment, she hadn't planned on taking a stand that day. She hadn't planned on becoming the face of the injustices of segregation. She had simply had enough. She was tired of being treated like a second-class citizen. She had had enough.

Rosa Parks' act of courage sparked the civil rights movement.

The strength and presence of a Federal building perfectly captures the character and personality of this icon of the civil rights movement.

It is fitting and just that the lives and accomplishments of Mother Teresa and Rosa Parks are acknowledged with these designations.

I strongly support H.R. 4500 and urge its passage.

HONORING THE 2005 NCAA CHAMPION UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON HUSKY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the women's volleyball team from my alma mater, the University of Washington, for winning the school's first NCAA National Championship in that sport in San Antonio on Saturday.

The Huskies finished a fantastic 32 and 1 season with the most dominating performance in the history of the NCAA Women's Volleyball National Championship Tournament, winning every game in their six tournament matches. I commend the athletes from the University of Nebraska for their excellent play in the final match, but the Huskies, led by Coach Jim McLaughlin, would not be denied this year.

I would also like to recognize the Tournament's Most Outstanding Player, Christal Morrison, for her exceptional play, as well as Courtney Thompson and Sanja Tomasevic, who deservedly made the all-Tournament team.

This talented and hard-working group of women have made this Husky very proud. So much so, that I am tempted to offer a rendition of the Husky fight song: Bow Down to Washington. But to the relief of my colleagues, I will not do so tonight.

I encourage all Members to join with me in congratulating the University of Washington's Women's Volleyball Team.

BORDER PROTECTION, ANTITERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes:

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, as the co-authors of H.R. 4360, which is included in H.R. 4437 as Section 607, we have drafted this expression of our legislative intent with the guidance and approval of the House Judiciary Committee to help ensure that our intent in this section is fulfilled by the law enforcement community, the U.S. Attorney General, the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security, the Congress, and the Appropriations Committee as rules are written and funds are spent to carry out the activities authorized by Section 607.

H.R. 4360 and Section 607 of H.R. 4437 both authorize \$100 million per year to pay for the reasonable and necessary costs incurred by "any sheriff or coalition of sheriffs" from counties along the southern border to detain,

house, and transport illegal aliens. It is our intent that the language of section 607 be interpreted and implemented to reimburse or provide advance payments to border county sheriffs for all costs of "detaining, housing . . . transporting [and] transfer[ing] aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States."

H.R. 4360 and Section 607 both contain a provision that "not more than 20 percent" of the funds paid in advance or reimbursed to the sheriffs may be used for the construction or renovation of detention or similar facilities. This provision, coupled with the authorization for use of funds "including the costs of personnel (such as overtime pay and costs for reserve deputies), costs of training of such personnel, equipment," make it clear that 80 percent of the funds appropriated and sent to border sheriffs or a coalition of border sheriffs are authorized to be used for "the costs of personnel (such as overtime pay and costs for reserve deputies), costs of training of such personnel [and] equipment . . ." Both bills require that these federal funds "supplement, and may not supplant, State or local funds used for the same or similar purposes."

It is our intent in Section 607 of H.R. 4437 to authorize federal funds appropriated by Congress and sent by the Department of Justice to border sheriffs or a coalition of border sheriffs to be used to hire, train, pay and fully equip additional deputy sheriffs and reserve deputies whose duties include in whole or in part "detaining, housing . . . transporting [and] transfer[ing] aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States." We agree with the traditional legal and common sense definition that a person is detained from the moment their "freedom of movement [is] restricted." *U.S. v. Thomas*, 250 F. Supp. 771, (S.D.N.Y. 1966), also see *Henry v. U.S.*, 80 S. Ct. 168 (U.S. 1959).

Therefore, a border county sheriff can use these funds to hire, train, pay and fully equip additional deputy sheriffs and reserve deputies whose duties include patrolling the border regions of their county, supporting the work of the U.S. Customs Border Protection patrols and who detain aliens who are not lawfully present in the U.S. in the course of their day to day law enforcement duties.

We have attached to this letter clarifying our legislative intent the proposed budgets prepared by the border sheriffs in Texas which detail the type of additional expenditures they anticipate will be necessary for them to fulfill their responsibilities under H.R. 4360 and Section 607 of H.R. 4437. These are precisely the types of additional expenditures which we intend to authorize under Section 607 of H.R. 4437, and we want the Appropriations Committee and the Department of Justice to do what is necessary to ensure that the border sheriffs are promptly reimbursed or paid in advance for expenses like these.

We authored this legislation to ensure a steady, predictable and sufficient flow of federal funds to help border sheriffs hire and equip additional deputies, and build, maintain and operate enough additional bed space, to detain, arrest, house and transport aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States. This work by the border sheriffs will be done in support of and in coordination with the USCBP along the lines of "Operation Hold the Line," "Operation Stone Garden," and the current "Operation Linebacker" which has been proposed by the Texas Border Sheriffs Coalition.

These border counties are largely rural and do not have a tax base or a local revenue source large enough to hire enough additional deputies or build, maintain and operate enough additional bed space to keep up with the growing tide of lawless criminals and narco-terrorists crossing our southern border. These federal funds are indispensable to enable these border sheriffs to help USCBP protect our southern international border.

CAMERON COUNTY SHERIFF
DEPARTMENT,
August 23, 2005.

MR. GONZALEZ: The Cameron County Sheriff Department patrols approximately a 35 mile stretch along the United States and Mexican border. We have four international bridges in our county. The Sheriffs Department is responsible for approximately 40 miles of beach front in which the flow of narcotics at this time is evidently being seen by a recent number of narcotic seizures along the beaches. Cameron County is also home to one of the largest ports in the State of Texas which is better known as The Port of Brownsville.

Our area has also seen an increase in illegal immigrant smuggling and crossing. A high number of immigration arrests have been made on Hondurans, Nicaraguans, and Brazilian. An increase in arrests has recently been rising of a notorious group called the Mara-Salvatrucha gang better known as MS-13. This group has strong ties to terrorist groups and Al-Qaeda.

To better protect our borders and provide support for our local border patrol, we estimate the need of 20 additional officers. The cost per officer includes vehicles, uniform, weapons, radios, and gear. The per officer amount is \$70,633.00 for the first year at a total of \$1,412,660.00. The annual salary after the first year is \$28,252.00 for a total of \$565,040 to follow on a yearly basis.

Thank you and if you have any questions, please contact me at my office.

Sincerely,

CAPTAIN REYNA.

TEXAS BORDER SHERIFFS COALITION
[Proposed Budget to assist USBP in Border Security Protection]

Item description	Unit cost	Qty requested	Total cost
Off Road Vehicle Ford F150 4X4	\$30,000	2	\$60,000
Polaris 4X4 Quad runners	8,000	2	16,000
16 ft Trailer	2,000	1	2,000
Night Vision Binoculars	2,000	2	4,000
Nikon 10X50 Binoculars	150.00	2	300.00
BlackHawk Night OPS Flashlights	235.00	7	1645.00
ARIS A3 Tactical	1000.00	7	7000.00
Protective Body Armor ..	500.00	7	3500.00
Hydra Storm Camel Backs	120.00	7	840.00
Mavica Digital Camera	500.00	2	1000.00
Overtime Existing Deputies	30,000	1	30,000
GPS	200.00	7	1,400.00
Heavy Duty Wear Tactical Uniform (Brush, Mountain)	300.00	7	2,100.00
Additional Deputies	30,000	4	120,000.00
TOTAL			249,785.00

WEBB COUNTY

Twenty-seven (27) deputy sheriffs to patrol border—including salaries, fringe benefits, training @ \$35,058 per deputy—payroll plus fringe benefits and equipment for a total of \$1,370,957.

Twenty-seven (27) vehicles @ \$32,000 per vehicle for a total of \$865,000; Twenty-seven (27) mobile radios for patrol units at \$2,000 per radio—\$54,000; Twenty-seven (27) laptop computers for patrol units @ \$1,500 per laptop—\$41,000; Yearly maintenance and fuel for vehicles—\$3000 per vehicle for a total of \$81,000 (first year); Twenty-seven (27) Night Vision Goggles—\$3,000 each for a total of \$81,000;

Mobile command center of \$60,000; Heavy duty river boat and motor—\$100,000; Body armor and sidearms, shotguns and auto weapons—\$98,000 plus ammo; Biohazard suits costs unknown; Geographic information system \$10,000 per year.

*It should be noted that Webb County has been under the gun by a cross-border war between drug cartels with violence spilling over into the U.S. side; our needs are dire and our manpower requirements are critical

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT,

Sierra Blanca, TX, August 16 2005.

SHERIFF: Here is a list of Personnel and equipment that I feel would help us assist the Border Patrol in maintaining a secure Border for our Country. These items are the minimum we could use. If you have any questions please give me a call.

480,000—Vehicle and emergency equipment.
22,500—Weapons and Flash lights.
22,500—Lap tops.
720,000—Salaries, Overtime and Benefits.
10,000—Uniforms.
21,000—Vehicles Insurance.
150,000—Fuel per year.
1,200—Lease on Building.
12,000—Utilities.
15,000—Phones.
35,000—Vehicle Maintenance and Tire.
100,000—Support Personnel dispatch and secretary.
25,000—Supplies and Equipment.

If you need more information please call.

Sincerely,

ARVIN WEST,
Sheriff.

PRESIDIO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

OPERATING COST ESTIMATE

AUGUST 2005

Salaries (Deputy Sheriff) w/3% increase for 2005.

Base = 86 hours bi-weekly @ \$12.32/hour = \$1,059.52 bi-weekly 26 = \$27,547.52.

Social Security = 7.65% of \$27,547.52 = \$2,107.38.

Retirement = 6.00% of \$27,547.52 = \$1,652.85.

Insurance = \$4,784.00.

Unemployment = \$239.66.

Workers Compensation = \$2,203.80.

Overtime/Extra Duty Pay = 10 hours bi-weekly @ \$18.48/hour = \$184.8026 = \$4,804.80.

Total Cost Per Deputy = \$43,340.01.

Total Cost for 15 Deputies = \$650,100.15.

Equipment (Needed for everyday operation).

1 Vehicle (2005 Dodge 4x4 PIU) = \$24,999.00.

1 Two-Way Radio Motorola 100 Watt Mobile Unit = \$3,675.00.

1 Two-Way Radio Motorola 10 Watt Portable Unit = \$3,750.00.

1 Satellite Communications System w/ Phone Unit = \$2,750.00.

1 Set of emergency lights for vehicle w/ Siren = \$1,200.00.

1 Bushmaster Full Auto Carbine w/ammo = \$1,000.00.

1 Law Enforcement Camera System for vehicle = \$3,999.00.

1 Speed Radar unit = \$1,300.00.

1 Year's Supply Uniforms with badge and ID \$500.00.

1 Set Misc. Equipment (First Aid Kit, Mask Etc.) \$250.00.

1 T.C.L.E.O.S.E. Mandatory Training = \$500.00.

1 Monthly Fuel Cost = \$400.00.

Estimated Cost of Equipment per Deputy = \$44,323.00.

Estimated Cost of Equipment for 15 Deputies = \$664,845.00.

Total Operating Cost per Deputy = \$87,663.01.

Total Operating Cost for 15 Deputies = \$1,314,945.15.

FYI—These numbers are based on a 2005 current price list and may change at any time and without notice.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 20, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 9

12 noon

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Samuel A. Alito, Jr., of New Jersey, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

SH-216

FEBRUARY 9

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold an oversight hearing to examine commercial aviation security, focusing

on Transportation Security Administration's aviation passenger screening programs, Secure Flight and Registered Traveler, to discuss issues that have prevented these programs from being launched, and to determine their future.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To continue oversight hearings to examine commercial aviation security, focusing on physical screening of airline passengers, including issues pertaining to Transportation Security Administration's Federal passenger screener force, TSA procurement policy, air cargo screening, and the deployment of explosive detection technology.

SD-562